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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/646,835	01/11/2001	Gabriele Multhoff	105032-991230	1173

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EXAMINER

YAEN, CHRISTOPHER H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1643

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/646,835	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MULTHOFF, GABRIELE	
	<b>Examiner</b> Christopher H. Yaen	<b>Art Unit</b> 1643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49, 61-77 and 83-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 61-77 and 83-87 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

***Re: Multhoff***

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/24/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-48, 50-60, and 78-82 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer
3. Claims 49, 61-77, and 83-87 are pending. Claim 49 is withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.
4. Claims 61-77 and 83-87 are examined on the merits.
5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***New Arguments***

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph***

6. Claims 61-77 and 83-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application

Art Unit: 1643

was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The written description in this case has only set forth a method of activating NK cells using either a HSP protein of SEQ ID No: 1, a C-terminal fragment comprising amino acids 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1, and therefore the written description is not commensurate in scope to the claims that read on a method of activating NK cells using a polypeptide having 70% or greater homology to amino acid 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1, as claimed. The following *written description* rejection is set forth herein.

*Vas-Cath Inc. V. Mahurkar*, 19 USPQ2d 1111, clearly states that “applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of *the invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the ‘written description’ inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*.” (See page 1117). The specification does not “clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed.” (See *Vas-Cath* at page 1116). Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 USC 112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 115).

The claims recite a “a polypeptide having 70% or greater homology to amino acid 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1” as part of the invention. However, there does not appear to be an adequate written description in the specification as-filed of the essential structural features that are representative of the genus of sequences that are 70% or greater in homology to amino acids 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1 as claimed. The Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 1 “Written Description” Requirement make clear that the written description requirement for a claimed genus

Art Unit: 1643

may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the genus (Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1099-1111, Friday January 5, 2001, see especially page 1106 3<sup>rd</sup> column).

Applicant does not appear to have reduced to practice any sequence that is 70% or greater in homology to amino acid 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1. With the exception of SEQ ID NO:1 or fragments comprising amino acids 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed structure of the encompassed polypeptide variants or those that have at least 70% homology to amino acids 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1 and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Neither has Applicant provided a sufficient written description of any structure that may be correlated with any specific function or identification of a core structure responsible for any specific function. The genus of sequences encompassed is extensive and the artisan would not be able to recognize that Applicant was in possession of the invention as now claimed.

Consequently, Applicant was not in possession of the instant claimed invention. See Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co. 119 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Adequate written description of genetic material

Art Unit: 1643

"requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, chemical name, or physical properties,' not a mere wish or plan for obtaining the claimed chemical invention." Id. 43 USPQ2d at 1404 (quoting Fiers, 984 F.2d at 1171, 25 USPQ2d at 1606). The disclosure must allow one skilled in the art to visualize or recognize the identity of the subject matter of the claim. Id. 43 USPQ2d at 1406. A description of what the genetic material does, rather than of what it is, does not suffice. Id. While it is noted that the instant claims are drawn to methods, the claims nevertheless require an adequate written description of the "polypeptides having 70% or greater homology with amino acids 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1" employed in the methods.

Applicant is directed to the Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 1 "Written Description" Requirement, Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1099-1111, Friday January 5, 2001. Applicant is invited to point to clear support or specific examples of the claimed invention in the specification as-filed.

Therefore only a method of activating NK cells using either a HSP protein of SEQ ID No: 1, a C-terminal fragment comprising amino acids 384-641 of SEQ ID No: 1 meets the written description provision of 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup>***

7. Claims 64-65, and 69 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1643

8. With regard to claims 64-65, is vague and indefinite for the inclusion of other cells expressing cell-surface Hsp70. The claim does not further limit the base claims from which it depends.

9. Claim 69 recites the limitation "said condition" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in claim 67 from which it depends.

**All other rejections are withdrawn in view of the applicant's amendments and arguments thereto as set forth in a paper filed on 8/24/2005.**

### ***Conclusion***

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher H. Yaen whose telephone number is 571-272-0838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1643

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher Yaen  
Art Unit 1643  
October 28, 2005

  
**CHRISTOPHER YAEN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**